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Maryland Right to Life
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Letter of Opposition- Corporate Abortion Welfare

Supplemental Appropriation #23-9 to the Montgomery County FY23 Operating Budget, Department of Health and Human Services, Assistance to Access Abortion, Reproductive Health, and Related Services

Maryland Right to Life is the state's largest pro-life organization, representing local chapters and thousands of households across Maryland. On behalf of our Board of Directors and members residing in Montgomery County, we oppose and rebuke this outrageous plan to force Montgomery County taxpayers to **subsidize human trafficking and abortion tourism**. We urge the Council to vote against Supplemental Appropriation #23-9 and call upon you to put patients before abortion politics.

CORPORATE ABORTION WELFARE/DOUBLE TAXATION - There is bi-partisan unity on prohibiting the use of taxpayer funding for abortion. 54% percent of those surveyed in a January 2022 Marist poll say they oppose taxpayer funding of abortion. But supplemental Appropriation #23-9 to Montgomery County's FY23 Operating Budget, is **blatant corporate welfare to the multi-billion dollar abortion industry** to establish a human trafficking ring for the purpose of terminating children for profit.

This plan imposes double taxation upon the citizens of Montgomery County, who already have been committed to fund \$3.5 million annually through the **Maryland Abortion Care Access Act of 2022**. By approving such an egregious political ploy while your constituents are constrained by inflation, you will be violating all standards of good governance and fiscal responsibility.

UNSAFE ABORTION TRAFFICKING - Abortion is the exploitation of women and girls and enables sexual abusers and sex traffickers to continue in the course of their crimes and victimization. As many as 3 in 4 women report that they felt coerced into their abortion decision. The abortion industry has demonstrated that they are only concerned with abortion

remaining legal and lucrative. But it is the role of government to ensure that abortion is both safe and rare. 90% of people in a June 2022 Harvard/Harris poll support restrictions on abortion.

The Maryland Abortion Care Access Act of 2022 has made Maryland the nation's destination for unsafe abortion tourism. The Act repealed one of the few health and safety regulations for women, which was the requirement that only licensed physicians may perform abortions. Under the Act any person can become certified to perform or provide abortion up until birth. This reduction in the medical standard of care for women seeking abortions will dramatically increase the number of injuries and deaths in Maryland. Supplemental Appropriation #23-9 will leave these girls right on your doorstep.

WOMEN HAVE OPTIONS – Abortion remains legal through all nine months of pregnancy in the state of Maryland. There is no “reproductive health emergency” and women in Montgomery County do not have *lack of access* to abortion. In fact, Montgomery County is an abortion tourism draw, housing and shielding one of the nation's few remaining late term abortion practices, where women have been maimed and killed.

What women need is lifesaving alternatives to abortion. Women have better options for reproductive healthcare than Planned Parenthood. In Maryland there are 84 federally qualifying health centers and pregnancy centers providing free or reduced health care services for women.

81% of Americans polled favor laws that protect both the lives of women and unborn children. With the Supreme Court's overturning of *Roe v. Wade*, it is critically important that the Council prioritize public funding for programs that support the lives of both mothers and children including quality prenatal care, affordable birth and delivery plans, Safe Haven Program public service announcements, parenting education and support, foster care reform and affordable adoption programs.

ABORTION IS NOT HEALTH CARE - Abortion is the violent destruction of a developing human being. Abortion always kills a human child and often causes physical and psychological injury to women. There is no medical scarcity threatening abortion access. There is an ethical objection to abortion within the medical community. The fact that 85% of OB-GYNs in a representative national survey will not participate in abortions is glaring evidence that abortion is not an essential part of women's healthcare. Abortion is never medically necessary to save the life of a woman. In the rare case of severe pregnancy

complications, hospitals, not abortion clinics, may decide to separate the mother and child and make best efforts to sustain the lives of both. This is different from an abortion, which always involves the purposeful termination of living fetal human life.

PLANNED PARENTHOOD IS A BAD INVESTMENT - As public funding for Planned Parenthood increases, women's health services decrease. HEAR FROM ABORTION PROVIDERS THEMSELVES (<https://youtu.be/yJeLTE7aG78>). Only 3% of women receive services from Planned Parenthood yet the abortion giant received nearly \$600 million in public funding. Planned Parenthood is not a significant provider of prenatal care. In fact, only 14% of Planned Parenthood clinic provide any prenatal care. Planned Parenthood commits 887 abortions each day but provides less than 2% of breast exams, less than 1% of PAP tests and less than 2% of cancer screenings.

SUBSIDIZING CORPORATE ABORTION - Abortion is big business in Maryland. According to the Maryland Department of Legislative Services in their Analysis of the FY2022 Maryland Executive Budget, Maryland taxpayers, through Maryland Medicaid, are being forced to pay for elective abortions. We spent at least \$6.5 million for 9,864 abortions in 2020, with less than ten of those abortions for reasons of rape, incest or life of the mother. Maryland taxpayers paid an additional \$3.2 million to abortion providers for "family planning services". Taxpayers pay many more millions of dollars through MDH and MDE grants as well as for subsidies to biomedical research labs that increase the demand for aborted babies in Maryland to conduct unnecessary and unsuccessful embryonic and fetal tissue research.

ABORTION IS BLACK GENOCIDE - Montgomery County has a diverse population, which makes it an attractive location for Planned Parenthood's expansion. Planned Parenthood historically targeted people of color for elimination through sterilization and abortion. Even today, 78% of abortion clinics are located in minority communities. As a result abortion has reached epidemic proportions among people of color with half of all pregnancies of Black women ending in abortion. Abortion is the greatest human and civil rights abuse of our time and as a civilized people we cannot continue to justify or subsidize this genocide. For more information please see www.BlackGenocide.org.

In closing, Supplemental Appropriation #23-9 incentivizes human trafficking and substandard medical care, and threatens women and girls who will be brought across state and county lines to receive unregulated abortions without any legal protections in Montgomery County.

For these reasons, we respectfully urge you to vote against this appropriation and any and all measures to allocate public funds to abortion providers, services, education, training or promotion.

Thank you for your consideration of this critical matter of women's health and safety.

Sincerely,

Laura Bogley, JD
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